

Non Responsive

Benton Harbor, MI – On September 9, NRDC, on behalf of several organizations in Benton Harbor and Michigan, submitted a petition for emergency action to EPA, requesting that the Agency take multiple actions related to Benton Harbor’s lead levels. The petition was addressed to the Administrator, the acting Region 5 RA, Radhika, and OECA. As a result of the September 13 meeting between OW, OECA, and Region 5, Region 5 will engage the petitioners to better understand the challenges with filter delivery and other issues. The Benton Harbor Community Water council previously requested the use of discretionary, emergency grants to purchase and provide faucet-mounted water filtration systems for each of the 5,800 residences in Benton Harbor; to provide training and installation assistance to the residents; and to work with the Berrien County Health Department to develop a water filter database to document households that have been provided with the water filtration systems, replacement filters, and community education for public health and safety. OGWDW coordinated with Region 5 on the EPA and State of Michigan response to this request and Region 5 spoke with the Berrien County Health Department. The County stated they have enough filters to provide to the community.

In June, EPA provided \$5.6M to Benton Harbor under the WIIN Lead Reduction grant. On September 8 Governor Whitman announced a \$20M investment for technical assistance, filter distribution, and replacement of 100% of lead service lines within 5 years.

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